THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) A proposal for the sale of power from Pakistan to India was received from Indian Embassy, Washington. The proposal is under preliminary stage of Assessment and scrutiny. Consequent to the commissioning of the last unit of 1300 MW World Bank funded. Hub River Power Project near Karachi, Pakistan is likely to have a 1000 MW surplus during the monsoon season. The surplus is largely between July to September, the expectation is that even during the lean season substantial power will be available in view of capacity addition from ongoing projects. To facilitate the transfer of bulk power to Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, it will be necessary in due course to establish a 400 KV transmission links. In the short run a 66 KV Double Circuit line between Lahore and Amritsar needs to be commissioned. This would facilitate transmission of 200 MW power. So far, no feasibility study has been conducted regarding the modalities for effecting the transfer of power and the investments required to be undertaken.

(f) and (g) Based on the assessment made by the Working Group on Power, the energy and peak shortage in 2001-02 would be 3.8 percent and 14.4 percent respectively assuming a realistic capacity addition of 34.000 MW in the Ninth Plan (1997-2002). The import of power from the neighbouring countries will improve the power supply position in the country to some extent.

Detention of Loaded Wagons

1387. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to introduction of 'One Train System' loaded wagons are allowed to go without any checking which is in violation of safety rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to discontinuance of work during night time the loaded wagons are detained 4/5 days in Radhanagar Railway Yard under Adra Division of S.E. Railway;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether detention of wagons for a long time adds to the losses of the Railways, particularly when there is scarcity of wagons;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether due to introduction of the new system, the services of 250 to 300 staff of Radhanagar Railway Yard are becoming redundant;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government for gainfully utilisation of the services of these staff?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The detention of wagons is within reasonable limits. At present, detention to loaded rakes has been brought down.

(f) The detention to loaded rakes which was about 35 hrs. during 1995-96 has come down to about 21 hrs. during 1996-97.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The staff are redeployed from the place where the activities have dwindled to other areas where there is requirement for additional staff.

Surprise Check by Railway Vigilance Squad

1388. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Vigilance Squad had recently conducted surprise check at various canteens run by Railways in Delhi and found several discrepancies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to tone up its functioning so that the qualitative items are made available in various catering units in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some discrepancies regarding cleanliness and poor quality of catering items in addition to improper maintenance of the records were detected.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Constant efforts are made by the Railways to improve the quality of catering services, raw materials, standard of hygiene and up-to-date maintenance of records. Besides, checks have been intensified.

Extension of Long Distance Trains upto Gandhidham

1389. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand for extension of long distance trains upto Gandhidham; and